



Homeland
Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report

17 August 2012

Top Stories

- Researchers identified a trojan targeting the defense, aerospace, chemical, and technology industries that spreads via email that contains a malicious file. – *Threatpost* (See item [6](#))
- The governor of Louisiana declared a state of emergency for Plaquemines Parish August 15 as a saltwater intrusion has tainted drinking water, forcing the parish to rely on deliveries of bottled water for its water supply. – *WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* (See item [23](#))
- A founding member of the Scottish National Liberation Army, an outlawed militant group, was indicted on charges he emailed bomb threats over several weeks that disrupted campus life and forced the evacuation of more than 100 buildings on the University of Pittsburgh campus. – *Associated Press* (See item [29](#))
- Two law enforcement officers died and two were wounded in a series of apparently linked shootings in LaPlace, Louisiana, authorities said. – *CNN* (See item [33](#))

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Energy Sector

1. *August 16, Softpedia* – (International) **Oil company Saudi Aramco hacked, sensitive information possibly stolen.** The systems of Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia's national oil company, were breached by hackers who managed to plant a virus in the organization's networks. "On [August 15, 2012] an official at Saudi Aramco confirmed that the company has isolated all its electronic systems from outside access as an early precautionary measure that was taken following a sudden disruption that affected some of the sectors of its electronic network," the firm's representatives stated. "The disruption was suspected to be the result of a virus that had infected personal workstations without affecting the primary components of the network." They claim the incident was contained, without having any impact on the company's production operations. However, one of the hacker groups that took credit for the breach (at least two collectives claimed to be behind the attack) said the virus caused serious damage to Saudi Aramco's infrastructure. They claimed to have "destroyed" 30,000 computers owned by the organization. They stated a large amount of sensitive information was stolen.
Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Oil-Company-Saudi-Aramco-Hacked-Sensitive-Information-Possibly-Stolen-286679.shtml>
2. *August 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. refinery fire probe looks at spark sources.** Investigators probing the cause of a blaze at Chevron's Richmond refinery in Northern California are looking at heaters and responding emergency vehicles as possible ignition sources for the massive vapor cloud that spewed from a leaky pipe, the Associated Press reported August 15. Refineries such as Chevron Corp.'s have fired heaters that could have provided a spark for the August 6 inferno, said the lead investigator for the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB). A responding Chevron fire truck could be another possible spark source, since the 150-to-200-foot-high vapor cloud covered a large area and engulfed more than a dozen workers who narrowly escaped serious injury, he said. The investigator said diesel-powered trucks and generators have been ignition sources at other large refinery fires, including at BP's Texas refinery explosion that killed 15 workers and injured dozens more. Internal Chevron surveillance video showed the vapor cloud engulfing the area for 2 minutes. The vapor cloud was estimated to be about as tall as the refinery tower.
Source: <http://www.cbsatlanta.com/story/19283348/video-vapor-cloud-before-calif-refinery-fire>
3. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **1 dead in Ft. Lupton gas well rupture.** Authorities said one person died and three others suffered minor injuries after a rupture at a natural gas well north of Fort Lupton, Colorado, August 15. A Weld County sheriff's sergeant said pressure apparently caused one or more pieces of equipment to break loose, striking the workers. Encana Corporation, which operates the well, characterized the incident as a high-pressure gas release. The firm said the cause has not been determined. The injured workers were taken to a nearby hospital.
Source: http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/story.aspx?id=789001#.UC0LP6Box_B

4. *August 15, Associated Press* – (National) **Gov’t finalizes safety rule for offshore drilling.** Government regulators issued a final set of safety rules for offshore drilling August 15, fine-tuning a series of emergency measures put in place after the catastrophic BP explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. The safety measures are intended to make sure oil flow can be stopped if there are problems. They deal with how the wells are designed and how the cement and barriers used to secure them are tested. The biggest change to the interim rules deals with industry standards broadly referenced as part of the rule. Industry groups, including the American Petroleum Institute, argued the rule was confusing and could introduce new risk into the system. The interim rules made mandatory some measures the industry made voluntary. The result was that some measures appeared to conflict with each other. The Interior Department said the final rules will cost the industry about \$131 million annually to comply, or about \$53 million less than the emergency rules. Among the changes, the department trimmed by about \$86 million its estimate for how much it will cost to test remotely operated underwater vehicles, such as those that provided video feeds of oil spilling into the gulf in 2010.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Gov-t-finalizes-safety-rule-for-offshore-drilling-3791372.php>

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Chemical Industry Sector

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

5. *August 16, Reuters* – (International) **IAEA sees strong interest in nuclear power despite Fukushima.** Almost 30 countries are considering or planning to introduce nuclear energy as interest remains strong despite the 2011 accident at the Fukushima plant in Japan, the United Nations’ atomic agency said. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in a report posted on its Web site August 16, said the reactor meltdowns in Japan were expected to slow the growth of nuclear power in the world, but not reverse it. “While the Fukushima Daiichi accident caused some countries to change their positions and some to take a ‘wait and see’ approach, interest continued among countries considering or planning for nuclear power introduction,” it said. The IAEA forecast that global nuclear power capacity would grow by 35 to 100 percent by 2030, with the biggest increase in the Far East — a prediction in line with figures it published previously. Sixty-two reactors are under construction, in addition to the 435 units now in operation. While this is down from a peak of 233 units that were being built in 1979, it is still a rise from figures of 30 to 40 from 1995 to 2005. The IAEA said factors such as volatile fossil fuel prices and environmental issues, which have driven the increased interest in nuclear power since 2005, have not changed. Of the 29

countries now considering or planning for nuclear power, most are from Asia and Africa. In 2010, the group of potential nuclear newcomers numbered 34, which was 7 more than in 2008, the IAEA report showed.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/nuclear-energy-iaea-idUSL6E8JG7UO20120816>

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Critical Manufacturing Sector

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 16, Threatpost* – (International) **Email trojan targeting defense, aerospace and other industries.** What appears to be a targeted attack campaign against several high-value industries is using a trojan that employs rigged PDFs to deliver its payload. Targeting organizations in the defense, chemical, technology, and aerospace industries, the MyAgent trojan is primarily spreading through email as a zipped .exe file or PDF attachment, according to researchers at the FireEye Malware Intelligence Lab. FireEye examined a sample of MyAgent that, once executed, opens a PDF file titled “Health Insurance and Welfare Policy” and then drops a second executable, titled “ABODE32.exe,” in the temp directory, they say in their report. FireEye notes the “ABODE32.exe” executable accesses Windows Protected Storage, which holds the passwords for Internet Explorer, Outlook, and other applications. Once the trojan infects its host machine, it communicates with its command and control (C&C) server, the user agent string and URI of which are hard-coded into MyAgent’s binary. Also, FireEye noticed the malware loading different DLLs to communicate with its C&C server. Despite MyAgent’s relatively high detection rate, its dynamic intermediary stages place it among what FireEye considers advanced malware. JavaScript within the PDF variety of MyAgent determines which version of Adobe Reader is running on its host and then deploys well-known exploits tailored to the specific version. If the machine is running any of Reader 9.0’s predecessors, then MyAgent exploits the “Collab.getIcon()” vulnerability.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/email-trojan-targeting-defense-aerospace-and-other-industries-081612

7. *August 16, Global Security Newswire* – (Tennessee) **Y-12 plant receives permission to lift atomic activities suspension.** August 15, the Presidential administration allowed the Y-12 Nuclear Security Complex to resume atomic operations suspended after peace activists infiltrated the Tennessee nuclear arms facility in late July, the Knoxville News Sentinel reported. The site in Oak Ridge would relaunch uranium operations, disassembly of aging bomb components, and other initiatives over a period of uncertain

duration, said the newspaper. A comprehensive halt in Y-12 nuclear activities followed the July 28 unauthorized entry at the plant by the members of the antiwar group Transform Now Plowshares. The intruders passed into Y-12's "Protected Area" — the plant's most heavily guarded section and home to atomic arms activities and bomb-grade uranium storage — and reportedly dumped blood, put up placards, and added painted wording to the sides of structures prior to their apprehension.

Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/y-12-plant-receives-permission-lift-atomic-activities-suspension/>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *August 15, Associated Press* – (New York) **4 charged in 2008 NYC armored car heist.** Federal authorities in New York City have charged four people in the 2008 robbery of an armored car courier, including the now-former courier, a Manhattan U.S. attorney announced August 15. The courier and three co-defendants face charges including conspiracy to commit bank larceny in connection to the September 2008 robbery of \$330,000 at an M&T Bank branch on First Avenue in Manhattan. The U.S. Attorney said the defendants, along with others, put together a plan for the robbery of the money as it was being taken from a Dunbar Armored car into the bank branch. The former courier was arrested in Richmond, Virginia, and was due in federal court there August 16. The three co-defendants made appearances in a Manhattan federal court August 15.

Source: <http://www.myfoxny.com/story/19289717/4-charged-in-2008-nyc-armored-car-heist>

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Transportation Sector

9. *August 16, NBC News* – (New York; International) **New York-Moscow jet makes emergency landing after bomb threat.** A passenger jet flying from New York to Moscow made an emergency landing in Iceland August 16 after a caller claimed there was a bomb on board, a spokeswoman for Russian airline Aeroflot said. The manager at Reykjavik's Keflavik International Airport told NBC News the Airbus A330 with 253 passengers on board landed safely August 16 and the plane was evacuated. "There was an anonymous call saying that there was an explosive device on the plane, which was already in the air," spokesman said. Police planned to search the aircraft. Emergency teams also searched an airplane in the city of Voronezh, 300 miles south of Moscow, for explosives after an anonymous phone call was made to the city's airport, but no bomb was found, state-run RIA reported.

Source: <http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2012/08/16/13308828-new-york-moscow-jet-makes-emergency-landing-after-bomb-threat?lite>

10. *August 16, Associated Press* – (New York) **Derailed train snarls LIRR Brooklyn line.** A derailed train caused massive disruption along the Long Island Rail Road branch between the Jamaica section of Queens, New York, and Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn, August 15. The train derailed at Atlantic Terminal. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) ran limited half-hourly service into and out of Brooklyn through rush hour. Service had been completely suspended for about an hour after the incident. The agency said some peak trains would be cancelled between Brooklyn and Jamaica during the rush hour. There were no passengers on the train at the time of the derailment. The MTA did not know the cause of the derailment or when full service would be restored.
Source: http://www.qchron.com/editions/queenswide/derailed-train-snarls-lirr-brooklyn-line/article_75cb9274-e71a-11e1-9c5e-0019bb2963f4.html
11. *August 16, Houston Chronicle* – (Texas) **Hazmat spill closes part of the Sam Houston Tollway.** A truck spilled some type of material along a section of the Sam Houston Tollway in east Harris County, Texas, causing a traffic shutdown for about 4 hours in the area. Houston TranStar officials said a single truck was responsible for the spill that happened late August 15 along a section of the East Sam Houston Tollway near Jacinto Port Boulevard. TranStar officials called the substance a “corrosive liquid chemical” and said people in the area were reporting burning eyes and throats. They asked motorists to avoid the area. Authorities closed down both north and southbound lanes of the tollway at the scene.
Source: <http://blog.chron.com/newswatch/2012/08/hazmat-spill-closes-part-of-the-sam-houston-tollway/>
12. *August 15, Associated Press* – (North Dakota) **BNSF railway back in operation after crash near Tioga.** An Amtrak train in western North Dakota was operating normally again following a crash August 13 that left one man dead. The crash happened east of Tioga when a truck driver attempted to cross the track and collided with an oncoming train. The truck driver was killed and about 30 cars were derailed. The crash halted operation as officials conducted an investigation and cleanup of the sight. The track was back to full operation by August 14. A BNSF Railway spokeswoman said the train was carrying a variety of freight.
Source: http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/bnsf-railway-back-in-operation-after-crash-near-tioga/article_2c9f8d6a-e71c-11e1-b762-001a4bcf887a.html?comment_form=true

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *August 16, Associated Press* – (Tennessee) **Concentrated chili peppers force evacuation at Memphis FedEx plant.** More than 100 FedEx employees at the company’s parcel hub in Memphis, Tennessee, were treated at the scene after a forklift punctured a barrel of concentrated chili peppers August 16. A Memphis Fire

Department spokesman told WMC 6 Memphis that a 5-gallon container was damaged outside the building, and 117 employees were evaluated and decontaminated. The peppers are used to make pepper spray. Two people were taken to a hospital after complaining of chest pains.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/08/16/concentrated-chili-peppers-force-evacuation-at-memphis-fedex-plant/?test=latestnews>

14. *August 15, WVNS 59 Ghent* – (West Virginia) **Emergency responders hold drill at Charleston post office.** The U.S. Postal Service joined emergency responders and the City of Charleston, West Virginia, to test their emergency preparedness response plans August 14. The exercise focused on what to do if a bio-hazard alert was issued at the post office. It was a full-scale emergency exercise that included a full evacuation of the postal facility. The Charleston Fire Department, Charleston Police Department, Kanawha County Hazardous Materials Response Team, Office of Emergency Management, and the FBI also participated in the exercise.

Source: <http://www.wvnstv.com/story/19279630/emergency-responders>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *August 16, Associated Press* – (National) **Mass. company recalls soup sold in NY stores.** A Fall River, Massachusetts manufacturer recalled about 4,000 pounds of soup products after consumers found bits of plastic in the soups, the Associated Press reported August 16. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said the products made by Blount Fine Foods were sold at Wegmans supermarkets in Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The following products, all under the Wegmans Food Markets label, were recalled 16-ounce cups: of Chicken and Dumpling Soup, Gazpacho Soup, Italian Wedding Style Soup with Meatballs, Tomato Basil with Orzo, Caribbean Black Bean, and Lobster Bisque.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/16/4730734/mass-company-recalls-soup-sold.html>

16. *August 16, Fayetteville Observer* – (North Carolina) **Smithfield plant in Clinton fined \$251,000 for safety violations following February death of employee.** A Smithfield Packing Co. hog processing plant in Clinton, North Carolina, was fined \$251,250 by the State for safety violations following the death of a worker at the factory in February, the Fayetteville Observer reported August 16. The fines are for the death of the worker and for other problems found by inspectors from the North Carolina Department of Labor. The worker was killed from exposure to hydrogen sulfide gas, the penalty papers said. He was filling a tanker truck with sludge, a sewage byproduct, from overhead storage tanks. Hydrogen sulfide is a poisonous, explosive gas that forms in sludge. The employee was discovered unresponsive February 18 with his head in the tanker opening. The fines were issued August 13 by the labor department's occupational safety and health division. Seventeen fines were issued, including: three fines totaling \$210,000 for the man's death; each of the three is the maximum permitted penalty. The inspectors said Smithfield did not provide respirators to protect the

workers who handled the sludge. Further, they said the company did not train the workers on how to detect hydrogen sulfide and did not teach the workers how to protect themselves from the dangerous gases that sludge produces: hydrogen sulfide, methane, ammonia, and sulfur dioxide.

Source: <http://fayobserver.com/articles/2012/08/15/1197294?sac=fo.business>

17. *August 16, WXYZ 7 Detroit* – (National) **Turkey sausage may be contaminated with pieces of gloves.** Johnsonville recalled 48,000 thousands pounds of sausage because it may be contaminated with pieces of gloves, WXYZ 7 Detroit reported August 16. The recall involves 13.5-ounce vacuum packages of “Johnsonville Turkey Sausage with Cheddar Cheese.” The sausages were produced May 22 and distributed in Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Source: <http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/money/consumer/recalls/turkey-sausage-being-recalled-because-it-may-be-contaminated-with-pieces-of-gloves>

18. *August 16, Reuters* – (National) **After drought blights crops, US farmers face toxin threat.** The worst U.S. drought in 5 decades has parched the land and decimated crops. It now threatens to deal a second blow to farmers, who may have to throw out tons of toxic feed, Reuters reported August 16. Growers are rushing to check the nitrate levels of that silage, the stalks and leaves that corn farmers often harvest to feed to locally raised cattle or hogs. Agriculture groups warned farmers that drought-hit plants may have failed to process nitrogen fertilizer due to stunted growth, making them poisonous to livestock. Exceptionally early spring planting has caused a crush of early summer requests for the tests. Farmers are also expected to chop down a near-record swathe of their fields for silage to make up for the poor yields. Two months of dry weather and high heat that stunted plants and shriveled ears likely caused the absorption of excessive amounts of nitrogen, experts said. Instead of being distributed safely through the plant, the chemical built up in the lower portions of the stalk at potentially toxic levels.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/usa-corn-nitrate-idUSL2E8JFA3Z20120816>

19. *August 16, Zachary Plainsman-News* – (Louisiana) **USDA designates several La parishes as drought disaster areas.** August 15, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Commissioner received notice from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that four Louisiana parishes and seven contiguous parishes were designated natural disaster areas as a result of the drought. Morehouse, Richland, Union, and West Carroll parishes were declared primary natural disaster areas. The seven parishes named as contiguous disaster areas include: Caldwell, Claiborne, East Carroll, Franklin, Lincoln, Madison, and Ouachita. The USDA reported 63 percent of the nation’s hay acreage and about 73 percent of cattle acreage were in areas experiencing drought. About 87 percent of the U.S. corn and 85 percent of the soybeans were included in the drought areas.

Source: http://www.zacharytoday.com/view/full_story/19823979/article-USDA-

[designates-several-La--parishes-as-drought-disaster-areas?instance=secondary_news_left_column](#)

20. *August 15, Food Safety News* – (Idaho) **Test confirms Hepatitis A infection in Idaho restaurant employee.** Lab tests confirmed that an employee of Tom’s Gyro in Pocatello, Idaho, was infected with Hepatitis A, meaning that restaurant patrons may have been exposed to the virus, Food Safety News reported August 15. “While the risk to public health is low, the possibility exists that Tom’s Gyro patrons could have been exposed to Hepatitis A,” warned the Southeastern Idaho Public Health Department (SIPHD). SIPHD issued a public health notice August 15 advising patrons who ate at the restaurant between August 2-14 to receive a Hepatitis A Vaccine or immune globulin to prevent the onset of illness. Those who ate at the restaurant between July 15 and August 1 may also have been exposed to the virus, but a preventative measure would not prevent illness at this point. The employee is thought to have practiced good hand hygiene while serving customers, but may still have contaminated food or drinks at the restaurant, according to SIPHD.
Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/test-confirms-hepatitis-a-infection-in-idaho-restaurant-employee/#.UCzqRKC6TIY>
21. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Minnesota) **New fruit pest confirmed in Minnesota.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed a new fruit pest in the State, the Associated Press reported August 15. It is the spotted wing drosophila, or SWD. The invasive pest originated in Asia and was first detected in California in 2008. Since then the pest has spread to several western and eastern States. Members of the public reported the flies to the Minnesota agriculture department. A homeowner in Hennepin County found the flies in a trap placed near a raspberry patch. Maggots were found in wild raspberries picked in Ramsey County. The fly looks similar to small fruit flies found on overripe bananas. However, SWD feeds on healthy, ripening fruits such as raspberries, blackberries, and cherries.
Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/15/4729945/new-fruit-pest-confirmed-in-minnesota.html>
22. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Colorado) **2 additional cases of anthrax identified in Colorado cows near ranch with infected herd.** Two more cows have died from anthrax exposure in northeast Colorado, expanding the first outbreak of the disease in the State in 31 years to three ranches, the Associated Press reported August 15. The week of August 6, 60 cows died on a Logan County ranch, where anthrax was positively identified in one animal. Officials said it is likely they all died of the disease. The Colorado Department of Agriculture said August 15 the additional cows were on two separate adjacent ranches. Both died. The State veterinarian said all three ranches involved share fences, and the new cases likely are the result of cows grazing in an area with soil containing anthrax spores. Neighboring herds have been vaccinated. The personnel on the three affected ranches are working with their doctors and public health officials and were being given antibiotics as a precaution.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2-additional-cases-of-anthrax-identified-in-colorado-cows-near-ranch-with-infected-herd/2012/08/15/4771bc34-e722-11e1-9739-eef99c5fb285_story.html

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Water Sector

23. *August 15, WAFB 9 Baton Rouge* – (Louisiana) **State of emergency for Plaquemines Parish.** The governor of Louisiana declared a State of emergency for Plaquemines Parish August 15 as the parish faced drinking water issues from a saltwater intrusion. A salt wedge moved up the Mississippi River because of historic low levels of water on the river, affecting the parish's water supply. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) delivered 30,000 bottles of water to the parish. GOHSEP transported the first delivery of 6,900 bottles of water to the parish August 15. The Louisiana National Guard deployed a truck containing 4,000 gallons of water to the parish August 16 and will continue to provide this same supply for 5 days. The parish wants to use four barges to supplement the local water supply. The barges must be tested to ensure they are safe to carry water and the water will be filtered after it is transported. Once treated, the department of health and hospitals will test it to be certain it meets federal standards and is safe for human consumption.

Source: <http://www.wafb.com/story/19290222/state-of-emergency-for-plaqu>

24. *August 15, Imperial Valley Press* – (California) **Westmorland moves to fund a new computer system for city's water plant.** The Westmorland, California city council approved a measure August 15 that allows the purchase and installation of a new industrial control computer system for the city's water treatment plant, to work in conjunction with a decade-old computer system. The need for adding the additional supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to the plant comes after previous power outages in 2012 caused the older system's hard drive to shut down and fail, according to the Westmorland Public Works supervisor and the mayor. The system's failure to start back up during power outages was a significant reason why the city had to issue boil-water advisories to residents 3 weeks ago, after the city's water pressure dropped below the minimum 20 units of pressure per square inch to 4 units. The new system will use \$10,398.60 from the city's general reserve fund, said the city clerk. Both systems would operate at the same time, however, the new system would allow operators to have external or remote access to the plant and provide a visualization of what is occurring in the new system and older system. The new system is expected to provide a smooth transition from the current 2002 SCADA system.

Source: http://articles.ivpressonline.com/2012-08-15/computer-system_33222142

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

25. *August 16, Associated Press* – (Texas; Indiana) **Texas, Indiana dentist indicted in health care fraud case, \$1.5M investigation.** A Texas dentist who also sees patients

in Indiana was indicted August 15 on 11 counts of health care fraud in an alleged \$1.5 million Medicaid scheme. Investigators said the Amarillo, Texas orthodontist, who also practices in Crown Point, Indiana, billed the government program for more services than provided or for unnecessary procedures. The time frame was 2008 through March 2011. The indictment said employees sometimes scheduled more than 100 patients per day at times when the dentist was not to be in the office. Prosecutors said unqualified dental assistants did some procedures. Some dentists not enrolled in the Medicaid program allegedly provided care on behalf of the dentist.

Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5bebc30ff75847a78d7c508214baefb2/TX--Dentist-Fraud>

26. *August 15, United Press International* – (New Hampshire) **N.H. hospital records 33rd hepatitis case.** August 15, New Hampshire officials said another patient has hepatitis C after treatment in an Exeter Hospital lab, bringing the total number of cases to 33. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services announced additional results in the testing of patients treated at the hospital's Cardiac Catheterization Lab (CCL) between October 1, 2010, and May 25, 2012. State officials confirmed the case of a patient who underwent a procedure in the CCL. The procedure was prior to the first day of work for a former employee suspected of drug diversion in the case. However, the suspect did begin working at Exeter Hospital prior to the patient's discharge.

Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/08/15/NH-hospital-records-33rd-hepatitis-case/UPI-95761345066855/

27. *August 15, Scoop San Diego* – (California) **District attorney charges woman for practicing medicine without a license.** August 15, California's San Diego County District Attorney announced a woman was charged with multiple felony counts of treating patients without a medical license and grand theft. The defendant claimed to be a medical doctor and promised patients she could cure Lyme disease. She was arraigned on 11 felony counts. She told patients she was a medical doctor, "diagnosed" them with Lyme disease, and charged them thousands of dollars, infusing the patients with a non-Food and Drug Administration approved chemical solvent known as Dimethyl Sulfoxide and what she claimed were bovine stem cells. One of the patients became seriously ill, was rushed to the hospital, and treated in the Intensive Care Unit for organ failure. The victim was not expected to live and has still not fully recovered from her injuries.

Source: http://scoopsandiego.com/news/local/district-attorney-charges-woman-for-practicing-medicine-without-a-license/article_8adc20e8-e733-11e1-b7d8-0019bb30f31a.html

28. *August 15, U.S. Attorney's Office - Eastern District of New York* – (New York) **Long Island medical supplier convicted of \$10.7 million Medicare fraud.** August 15, a federal jury in Islip, New York, convicted the owner of a Long Island medical supply company of a \$10.7 million Medicare fraud and wrongful disclosure of private patient information. The evidence at trial established that over the course of 4.5 years, the defendant stole private patient data from various nursing homes on Long Island and

then submitted thousands of fake claims to Medicare. The claims sought payment for services and equipment that were never provided by the defendant's firm, Medical Solutions Management, Inc., of Hicksville. She then used the proceeds to purchase a \$2.2 million home in Old Brookville, as well as to fund a pension plan for herself and an investment brokerage account collectively worth \$2 million. She was charged in a three-count superseding indictment in March 2012 with conspiracy, health care fraud, and wrongful disclosure of patient information in violation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The case represents one of the first criminal prosecutions in the nation for wrongful disclosure of patient information under HIPAA.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/pr/2012/2012aug15.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

29. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **FBI: Man in Ireland charged with Pitt bomb threats.** A founding member of the Scottish National Liberation Army, an outlawed militant group, was indicted August 15 on charges he emailed bomb threats that disrupted campus life and forced the evacuation of more than 100 buildings on the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) campus in Pennsylvania earlier this year. The Dublin, Ireland man was charged with 17 emailed threats sent to the school April 6-21, and with emailed bomb threats against federal courthouses in Pittsburgh, Erie, and Johnstown in June. He is also charged with threatening a Pittsburgh-based U.S. attorney — who led the investigation that resulted in his indictment — in a June 20 email. Pitt began receiving bomb threats written on bathroom stalls in mid-February, for which nobody has yet been charged. The suspect, in custody in Ireland, allegedly sent his emails to capitalize on the momentum from the earlier threats. In all, the university received 52 threats against 160 buildings that prompted 136 evacuations, the Pitt chancellor said. The threats cost the school more than \$300,000 in direct expenses, including overtime for police and other staff, bomb squads, and special equipment to detect such devices. Federal prosecutors also announced new charges against two Ohio men for YouTube threats that claimed university computers had been hacked.
Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hPPQfeJ-dqkhh-6t8rankZ2gzu7g?docId=f40a9bb21ef34dd681b9f107c61e85b1>

30. *August 15, Orlando Sentinel* – (Florida) **Orange County courthouse security fired for failing to stop possible weapons.** Officials have fired the contractor that recently took over security at the Orange County, Florida courthouse after a recent security check in which the company failed to keep prohibited items from getting in, a county spokesman said. The situation “came to a head” August 10, he said, when Orange County deputies conducted the latest test. They tried to get prohibited items — some of which “could be construed as weapons” but not guns — into the courthouse in the hope that private security officers would detect and intercept them. “Some of the items that they were testing the guards for managed to get through,” he said, and the county

terminated its contract with the company, which went into effect in May. In addition to the failed test, he said judges complained the company failed to adequately staff the courthouse leading to long lines at the entrance, delaying jurors, and interfering with court proceedings. The company also allowed a law enforcement officer into a secure area he should not have been in, and without confirming his credentials, the county spokesman said.

Source: http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2012-08-15/news/os-security-company-fired-courthouse-20120815_1_courthouse-security-private-security-officers-security-check

31. *August 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Court employee in LA charged with conspiracy.** A federal courts clerk in Los Angeles, California, and her husband have been charged with accessing and leaking confidential information to tip off suspected criminals before their arrest, including the takedown of an Armenian gang last year, authorities said August 15. Each was charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice. Federal authorities said they believe the courts employee looked at sealed indictments before raids across Southern California in February 2011 that led to the arrests of more than 70 people associated with the Armenian Power gang. One of the defendants, seeking a reduced sentence, told FBI agents that information about the takedown was known to some of those arrested. Authorities said the courts employee's husband acted as an intermediary who promised he could get confidential data from the court system in exchange for cash. On at least two occasions, he delivered information from sealed court records to an FBI informant. A court records search by FBI agents revealed that a log-in assigned to the courts employee had accessed sealed court documents pertaining to the two ongoing investigations. She worked as a clerk where criminal documents are filed in Los Angeles for the past 2 years. Her employment status is currently pending review.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/15/4729447/court-employee-in-la-charged-with.html>

32. *August 15, Associated Press* – (California) **Calif. professor pleads not guilty in arson case.** A university professor who wrote emails outlining a plan to attack a California high school after his son committed suicide pleaded not guilty to arson charges August 15 in an Orange County courtroom. He has been charged with several counts of arson and one count of attempted arson. Prosecutors say he set a series of fires earlier this year. They believe he was upset his son hanged himself shortly after he was disciplined for allegedly stealing from a school store. Police say emails written by the suspect describe a plan to buy weapons, shoot students and administrators, commit sexual assaults, and burn down the school before killing himself. Prosecutors have not charged him with making the threats.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/state&id=8775122>

For another story, see item [7](#)

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Emergency Services Sector

33. *August 16, CNN* – (Louisiana) **Louisiana ‘ambush’ kills 2 deputies, wounds 2.** Two law enforcement officers died and two were wounded in a series of apparently linked shootings early August 16 in LaPlace, Louisiana, authorities said. The first shooting happened in a parking lot for a steel plant, the St. John the Baptist sheriff said. The second happened when officers went to a trailer park to investigate the first shooting and were ambushed by a man armed with what the sheriff described as an assault rifle. A Louisiana State Police (LSP) colonel said multiple weapons were involved and at least 20 shots were fired. In addition to the two wounded law enforcement officers, two of the five people taken into custody were hospitalized with gunshot wounds, a LSP trooper said. One of the wounded officers was shot in the shoulder and is expected to survive, a law enforcement source said. Police do not believe anyone else involved in the shooting is at large. The shootings unfolded in the parking lot at the Bayout Steel Plant in LaPlace, about 25 miles west of New Orleans, when a man opened fire on a law enforcement officer working a traffic detail. Despite being shot multiple times, the officer was able to describe the suspect to dispatchers, the sheriff said. That description, along with a civilian report of a speeding car, led responding officers to a nearby trailer park. As the deputies were questioning two people, a man came outside and “ambushed my two officers,” he said.
Source: http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/16/justice/louisiana-officers-shot/index.html?hpt=hp_t1
34. *August 15, Raleigh News & Observer* – (North Carolina) **Former corrections officer sentenced for smuggling contraband into Butner prison.** A former senior corrections officer at the Butner Federal Correctional Complex in Butner, North Carolina was sentenced to 4 years in prison and 3 years of supervised probation after pleading guilty to smuggling contraband to inmates, Raleigh News & Observer reported August 15. The officer pleaded guilty of accepting bribes and conspiring to commit wire fraud and mail fraud. A co-conspirator pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit bribery and wire fraud relating to the deprivation of honest services by a public official. She was sentenced to 2 years of probation, according to a U. S. attorney. An investigation revealed that, from January 2011 through October 2011, an inmate would direct other inmates to send bribe money via Western Union or the U.S. Postal Service to co-conspirators in North Carolina and Virginia. Those people would deliver the money to the co-conspirator, who would travel to Butner and turn the money over to the corrections officer. He would then smuggle contraband, including cigarettes and marijuana, into the prison, according to a news release from the U.S. attorney’s office.
Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/08/15/2271563/former-corrections-officer-sentenced.html>
35. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Ohio) **Bedbugs found in 3 Ohio firehouses.** Bedbugs were found in three western Columbus, Ohio firehouses, forcing officials to throw out furniture and remind firefighters to change into clean clothes before going home, the Associated Press reported August 15. The battalion chief said bedbug-sniffing dogs found two or three live bedbugs in a truck and on a couch. Three mattresses that the dogs targeted were also thrown out.

Source: http://www.necn.com/08/15/12/Bedbugs-found-in-3-Ohio-firehouses/landing_nation.html?&apID=6b890c8c17ff4141b0effd9228ea1701

36. *August 15, WUSA 9 Washington D.C.* – (Virginia) **Verizon details massive 9-1-1 failure in wake of derecho.** Verizon met with the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments August 15, at the Alexandria, Virginia police headquarters to flesh out why its 9-1-1 call system failed across northern Virginia following the Derecho storm in late June. The service, which failed June 30, was not fully restored until July 3. An 11-page report given to the council of governments outlines what went wrong — multiple generators failed and the back-up batteries were drained. Verizon admitted they failed to recognize the severity of the situation, dragging out the crisis in communications.

Source: <http://washington.cbslocal.com/2012/08/15/verizon-details-massive-9-1-1-failure-in-wake-of-derecho/>

For another story, see item [14](#)

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Information Technology Sector

37. *August 16, Help Net Security* – (International) **NSS Labs expose inadequate AV products.** NSS Labs testing showed 9 of 13 popular consumer antivirus products failed to provide adequate protection against exploits targeting 2 recent critical Microsoft vulnerabilities. Only four vendors — Avast, Kaspersky, McAfee and Trend Micro — successfully blocked all attacks delivered over both HTTP and HTTPS. The research director at NSS Labs said, “These results clearly demonstrate protection deficiencies for many vendors when their products are configured with default ‘out-of-the-box’ settings, which are what is most commonly employed in the consumer market.” “This test revealed that numerous vendors that protected against an exploit over HTTP failed to protect against the same exploit delivered via HTTPS,” the company’s chief research officer said. “Vendors who did not perform well might want to reconsider their default settings in this age of attacks against SSL and other protocols.” The research director added, “Enterprises embracing the ‘bring your own device’ approach to workplace technology need to be aware of the ramifications the product selection choices their users make, as they impact the organization’s security posture and attack profile.”

Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2224

38. *August 15, Computerworld* – (International) **Google boosts bonuses for Chrome bug bounty hunters.** August 14, Google boosted payments to researchers for reporting bugs in Chrome, saying the move was prompted by a decline in vulnerabilities submitted by outsiders. “Recently, we’ve seen a significant drop-off in externally reported Chromium security issues,” a Chrome software engineer said in an August 14 post to the Chromium Blog. “This signals to us that bugs are becoming harder to find.” He outlined new bonuses Google will award researchers who report certain kinds of flaws. All the bonuses start at \$1,000 but can climb from there. Google will add the bonuses to the base payments — which range from \$500 to \$3,133 — for bugs that are

“particularly exploitable,” found in the more bug-free sections of Chrome’s code, and for vulnerabilities that affect more than just the browser.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9230309/Google_boosts_bonuses_for_Chrome_bug_bounty_hunters

39. *August 15, Threatpost* – (International) **Serious vulnerabilities remain in Reader after huge patch release, researchers say.** Adobe patched a huge number of flaws in its Reader software on Windows and Mac OS X August 14, many of which were reported to the company by members of Google’s internal security team, which set up a long-term fuzzing program to look for interesting crashes in the embedded PDF viewer in the Chrome browser. However, the Google researchers said there are still many serious vulnerabilities in the application running on Windows and OS X that Adobe failed to patch. The researchers released limited details on the bugs and some advice for users on how to mitigate the risks from the vulnerabilities.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/serious-vulnerabilities-remain-reader-after-huge-patch-release-researchers-say-081512

40. *August 15, Threatpost* – (International) **Bafruz backdoor disables antivirus, intercepts communications with social media sites.** A new family of malware is using a complex set of capabilities to disable antimalware and listen in on sessions between users and some social networks. Dubbed Bafruz, the malware is essentially a backdoor trojan that is also creating a peer-to-peer network of infected computers. August’s Microsoft Malicious Software Removal Tool release will include the Win32/Bafruz family. Bafruz’s capabilities include the ability to uninstall antivirus and security products, intercept social media communications sites such as Facebook and Vkontakte, install Bitcoin mining software, and perform denial-of-service attacks. It also communicates with other infected machines across a peer-to-peer protocol to download new components onto host machines, according to the Microsoft Malware Protection Center.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/bafruz-backdoor-disables-antivirus-intercepts-communications-social-media-sites-081512

41. *August 15, Threatpost* – (International) **ICS-CERT warns of serious flaws in Tridium Niagara software.** DHS and the Industrial Control Systems Computer Emergency Response Team warned users of some popular Tridium Niagara AX industrial control system software about a series of major vulnerabilities in the applications that are remotely exploitable and could be used to take over vulnerable systems. The bugs, discovered by two researchers, are the latest in a series of vulnerabilities found in the esoteric industrial control systems software packages that control utilities and other critical systems. The string of bugs that were reported by the two researchers include a directory traversal issue that gives an attacker the ability to access files that should be restricted. They also discovered the Niagara software stores user credentials in an insecure manner. There are publicly available exploits for some of the vulnerabilities. Tridium issued an alert about the problems and also published a patch to address them.

Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/ics-cert-warns-serious-flaws-tridium-niagara-software-081512

For more stories, see items [1](#), [6](#), [24](#), [29](#), [31](#), [42](#), and [48](#)

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

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Communications Sector

42. *August 15, IDG News Service* – (National) **AT&T hit by DDoS attack, suffers DNS outage.** A distributed denial-of-service attack aimed at AT&T's DNS (Domain Name System) servers disrupted data traffic for some of the company's customers. The multi-hour attack began early August 15 Pacific Standard Time. "Due to a distributed denial of service attack attempting to flood our Domain Name System servers in two locations, some AT&T business customers are experiencing intermittent disruptions in service," an AT&T spokesman told IDG News Service by email. "Restoration efforts are underway and we apologize for any inconvenience to our customers." The attack appeared to have affected enterprise customers using AT&T's managed services DNS product.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/260940/atandt_hit_by_ddos_attack_suffers_dns_outage.html

43. *August 15, McCook Daily Gazette* – (Nebraska) **Police report scam targeting Verizon cell phone users.** Scammers are calling Verizon Wireless subscribers in the McCook, Nebraska area, according to local police, McCook Daily Gazette reported August 15. According to reports, the caller indicates the company is working on cell towers or subscriber services in the area, and there may be a temporary interruption of their cellular service. For their inconvenience, the caller says, the company is paying subscribers \$50 for each hour they are without service. The caller then gives a service or claim number and is insistent that the subscriber write it down, as that is the only way to claim their reimbursement. The caller then asks for verification through provision of a password and the last four digits of one's Social Security number. The caller ID may show a 308 area code number.

Source: <http://www.mccookgazette.com/story/1882136.html>

For more stories, see items [36](#) and [40](#)

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Commercial Facilities Sector

44. *August 16, WHIO 7 Dayton* – (Ohio) **Smoke, odor force motel evacuation.** Light smoke and odor inside the Dayton South Motel in Washington Township, Ohio, August 15 prompted fire officials to order an evacuation of the building for the safety of the 50 or so guests and staff. Power to the business was shut down by Dayton Power & Light crews and electricians were slated to be called in August 16 to locate the source of the trouble, the Washington Township fire deputy chief said. Fire officials believe the problem was electrical, he said, but crews could not find the source. That prompted an initial evacuation. Owners and authorities decided not to take any chances and ordered an overnight evacuation. Power to the building was shut down after guests and staff were allowed back inside to retrieve their belongings.
Source: <http://www.whiotv.com/news/news/local/smoke-odor-force-motel-evacuation/nRCcj/>
45. *August 16, WKYC 3 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Streetsboro: Nothing found after Walmart bomb threat.** The police in Streetsboro, Ohio, responded to a reported bomb threat at the Wal-mart Supercenter August 15. When officers arrived at the store, Wal-mart employees were in the process of evacuating the customers. Officers assisted in the evacuation, then conducted a search of the store where nothing suspicious was located. Once the search was complete, customers and employees were allowed back inside and the facility reopened for business. The bomb threat was received by telephone by a Wal-mart employee, who then called the police. The same Wal-mart was also the location of a bomb threat March 10.
Source: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/256263/3/Streetsboro-Police-respond-to-bomb-threat-at-Walmart>
46. *August 16, Associated Press* – (Washington D.C.) **Man charged in shooting at conservative group HQ.** A Virginia man charged with shooting and wounding a security guard at the headquarters of a conservative lobbying group told the guard he opposed the organization's politics and had 15 Chick-fil-A sandwiches in his bag, federal authorities said August 16. The suspect was charged in federal court a day after he fired in the lobby of the Family Research Council in Washington D.C. The guard, who was shot in the arm, was wounded but was able to help wrestle the gun away and restrain the shooter, police said. The suspect entered the organization's lobby and told the guard words to the effect of, "I don't like your politics," stated a criminal complaint that charged the suspect with assault with intent to kill and bringing firearms across State lines. In his backpack, authorities found a box of ammunition and 15 sandwiches from Chick-fil-A.
Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/security-guard-shot-arm-downtown-dc-17011592#.UC0f56Abamg>
47. *August 16, Food Safety News* – (North Carolina) **NC State Fair takes measures to prevent another E. coli outbreak.** The 2011 E. coli O157:H7 outbreak attributed to the Kelley Livestock Building at the North Carolina State Fair has brought changes in pedestrian and animal traffic patterns, designed to minimize health risks, Food Safety News reported August 16. The Raleigh event, scheduled for October 11-21, was

responsible for its third E. coli O157:H7 outbreak in 2011. In 2004, the North Carolina fair's petting zoo left 108 fairgoers infected with E. coli O157:H7. In 2006, the fair's pita stand was found responsible for infecting three people with the bacteria. And in 2011, the livestock building was blamed for infecting at least 27 fairgoers with O157. For 2012, the State fair has spent \$206,000 on improvements designed to reduce the likelihood a fairgoer will come into contact with disease-causing pathogens. More than 1 million visitors attend the annual event. After the 2011 outbreak, a new State Fair Study Commission took up the issue with the goal of keeping people and competition livestock separated as much as practical without keeping people totally away from the animals. A public health investigation in 2011 found fairgoer illnesses stemmed from exposure to sheep, goats, and pigs competing in the livestock shows and being kept in the Kelley building. The solutions the study group came up with involve changing the traffic patterns in buildings where livestock are housed or shown. In addition, food vendors are being relocated. Instructional signs at animal exhibits will be larger, and hand-washing stations will have nighttime lighting and more signs to increase visibility.

Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/nc-state-fair-invests-measures-to-prevent-e-coli-o157h7-outbreaks/#.UCzqPqC6TlY>

48. *August 15, Associated Press* – (International) **Reuters blog platform hacked for 2nd time.** The Reuters news agency reported August 15 that hackers broke into one of its Web sites for the second time in 2 weeks and posted a false story saying Saudi Arabia's foreign minister died. Reuters said in a news story posted on its Web site that a fabricated article stating that a Saudi Arabian official had died "was illegally posted on a Reuters journalist's blog." The agency said the false posting had been deleted and that it does not have any immediate information on who was behind the hack. Two weeks ago, the agency said one of its Web sites had been hacked and used to disseminate fake stories about Syria's rebel movement.

Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57493570/reuters-blog-platform-hacked-for-2nd-time/

49. *August 15, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **RI closes 2 beaches to swimming.** Rhode Island health officials told residents not to swim at King's Park Beach in Newport and Third Beach in Middletown because of high bacteria counts. Officials at the State's health department recommended the beach closures August 15. The health department said it would reopen the beaches to swimming when bacteria counts return to safe levels. The State regularly tests the water at public beaches during the summer season to make sure that it is safe for swimming.

Source: <http://www.boston.com/news/local/rhode-island/2012/08/15/closes-beaches-swimming/4HJKd2Pr6pkktyp7HOMQyI/story.html>

50. *August 15, Batavia Daily News* – (New York) **Bomb threat briefly closes Albion Wal-Mart.** A bomb threat closed the Wal-Mart Supercenter in Albion, New York, for about 2.5 hours August 14, Orleans County sheriff's deputies said. The store received the first threat and management called 911. Managers evacuated the store, deputies said. Sheriff's deputies and state troopers responded to the store, and conducted a search of the premises that included a state police K-9 dog specially trained to detect

explosives. None were found. Deputies said an investigation is continuing.

Source: http://thedailynewsonline.com/news/article_6249e29e-e6fe-11e1-98af-0019bb2963f4.html

51. *August 15, Nantucket Inquirer and Mirror* – (Massachusetts) **Children’s Beach closed due to bacteria, again.** Children’s Beach in Massachusetts was closed to swimming August 15 due to elevated bacteria counts in recent water samples, stated the Nantucket Health Department. The health department director said no single water sample exceeded the bacteria level that would prompt a State-mandated closure, but that Children’s Beach had narrowly exceeded a threshold for the “geometric mean,” bacteria count, an average over the past 3 or 4 weeks. It marked the fourth time this summer that Children’s Beach has been closed to swimming due to bacteria.
Source: <http://www.ack.net/jettiesbeachclosed081512.html>

For more stories, see items [42](#), [52](#), and [55](#)

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National Monuments and Icons Sector

52. *August 16, Reuters* – (National) **Wildfires blaze across U.S. West, threaten Idaho towns.** Wildfires in the West August 15, threatened to engulf two small towns in Idaho as firefighters managed to partially dampen a blaze that destroyed more than 60 homes in Washington State. Fires have blackened more than half a million acres across Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, destroying homes and outbuildings, and forcing hundreds of people to evacuate. In Idaho, authorities told 1,000 residents in the communities of Featherville and Pine to prepare for evacuation ahead of a blaze that has consumed more than 63,000 acres. The Trinity Ridge fire erupted after a utility terrain vehicle caught fire August 3. The blaze was 5 percent contained, and roads to the two mountain desert towns southeast of Boise were blocked. Wildfires have consumed roughly 6 million acres across the nation so far in 2012, above the 10-year average of 4.9 million acres, figures from the National Interagency Fire Center show. In Washington State, firefighters battling the Taylor Bridge Fire tearing through areas between the towns of Cle Elum and Ellensburg said they hoped to have a quarter of the blaze under control by August 15. In California, 8,000 firefighters battled wildfires up and down the State that forced the evacuation of three southern California communities, closed parks and campgrounds, and threatened homes and a major power-transmission line. In San Diego County, five lightning-sparked fires charred 9,000 acres in and around Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The communities of San Felipe and Ranchita had to be evacuated, along with the park’s campground. Since August 12, California’s biggest fire, ignited by lightning, had burned nearly 100,000 acres and threatened a major natural gas line and transfer station as well as power transmission lines that supply the Reno area, said a fire information officer.
Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/us-usa-wildfires-west-idUSBRE87D15M20120816>

53. *August 15, San Bernadino County Sun* – (California) **San Bernadino man, 30, guilty of murder, arson in 2003 Old Fire.** A jury August 15 found a 30-year-old man guilty on five counts of first-degree murder and two counts of arson in the 2003 Old Fire. He was convicted of igniting the Old Fire that burned more than 91,000 acres and destroyed more than 1,000 structures after starting near Waterman Canyon, in the foothills above San Bernardino, California. The fire, which began October 25, 2003, cost nearly \$38 million. Jurors also found true two special circumstances — multiple murders in the same case and murder during the commission of the crime of arson. Those circumstances make him eligible for the death penalty, which prosecutors planned to seek in the penalty phase. Prosecutors said five residents in burn areas died from heart attacks caused by the stress of evacuation and threats to homes and belongings.
Source: http://www.sbsun.com/news/ci_21318087/verdicts-reached-old-fire-murder-arson-trial

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Dams Sector

54. *August 16, Tulsa World* – (Oklahoma) **Annual late-summer draw-down at Grand Lake canceled.** Grand Lake near Vinta, Oklahoma, will not have its annual late-summer draw-down, the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said August 15. The GRDA asked for relief from the rule curve because of low water flows into the Grand River basin. The 3-foot draw-down is to facilitate wetlands millet seeding for waterfowl and fish habitat. The GRDA agreed to continue running sufficient water through the Pensacola Dam to maintain dissolved oxygen levels downstream and to continue operations of the pumped-storage generation unit on Lake Hudson. Maintaining dissolved oxygen is necessary to prevent fish kills.
Source: http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=11&articleid=20120816_16_A15_VINITA262236
55. *August 15, Staunton News Leader* – (Virginia) **Todd Lake dam wins key nod.** The Natural Resources Conservation Service found the Todd Lake dam rehabilitation project in the Mount Solon community in Augusta County, Virginia, found no significant environmental impacts, the Staunton News Leader reported August 15. The finding means the project can move from the study and planning phase to design, funding, and construction, said the assistant State conservationist for the agency. The \$5.4 million rehabilitation project is needed because of concern the 49-year-old dam's spillway would not withstand the flood that would result from a particularly severe storm. Some 440 people live in the dam's flood zone, which also includes two businesses, a church, and sections of several roads on which an estimated 740 vehicles a day travel. The project will raise the dam embankment by 5 feet and widen the dam's auxiliary spillway by 20 feet and install a pile wall on a section of it. In addition, the plan calls for upstream and downstream dikes, and replacing the principal spillway riser.

Source: <http://www.newsleader.com/article/20120815/NEWS01/308150030/Todd-Lake-dam-wins-key-nod>

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